

**Claims**

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Amended) A communications and measurement apparatus, comprising:

a cuboid housing;

a front face coupled to the housing, wherein the front face includes a removable cover plate;

a display unit coupled to the front face; and

a back-plane coupled to the housing, wherein the back-plane includes a first plurality of openings arranged side-by-side, each one of the plurality of openings being adapted to receive a plug-in module, wherein at least one of the plug-in modules comprises a data processing module, wherein the back-plane includes an additional plurality of openings for receiving a plurality of additional modules and an extra module, wherein the additional modules form external interfaces for at least one of a plurality of measurement lines and data transmission lines, wherein the extra module is arranged between the additional modules and the data processing module, wherein the extra module includes a component-carrying side facing the data processing module, and wherein the additional modules and the extra module are arranged on a common back-plane, wherein the common back-plane includes a side provided with a plurality of plugs facing the front face, the plugs being provided behind the removable cover plate.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

**Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A communications and measurement apparatus as set forth in claim 5, further comprising an additional backplane coupled to the housing and associated with the data processing module, wherein the extra module is connected to the additional backplane through a plug-and-socket connection and a short conductor segment.**

**Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A communications and measurement apparatus as set forth in claim 5, further comprising a fan device mounted in the housing underneath the data processing module, the extra module, and the additional modules.**